

October.⁵⁶⁵ O'Connor testified in his 1998 House committee appearance that he had not seen the letter when it was issued, and that Kitto had informed him during the civil case that Kitto sent it without O'Connor's knowledge. O'Connor said that Kitto assumed responsibility for such efforts to raise money from the Indians, and that O'Connor was not actively involved. Records show that three Hudson opponents contributed to this Clinton/Gore '96 event, with the Mille Lacs paying \$500 and the Prairie Island and Upper Sioux tribes – and Kitto – donating \$1,000 each.

In deposition testimony, Kitto readily acknowledged that he actively solicited his tribal clients, but denied that it was an effort exclusive to the Hudson lobbying effort.⁵⁶⁶ Rather, he asserted that he advised all his tribal clients to contribute to political campaigns and organizations as a means of raising their profile with legislators and decision-makers, and he

⁵⁶⁵Kitto also prepared an Oct. 5, 1995, letter from Kitto and O'Connor to the tribes, repeating much of the same message as the Sept. 14 letter, but without reference to the Hudson Dog Track proposal. It solicited the purchase of tickets at \$1,000 per person for a Clinton/Gore '96 vice presidential dinner on Oct. 24 in Washington. There is no record of any contributions by Hudson opponent tribes in connection with that event.

⁵⁶⁶Nonetheless, Kitto repeatedly used the Hudson experience as a solicitation pitch. In June 1996, almost a year after the Hudson denial, MIGA co-hosted a fund-raiser for Rep. Martin Sabo. In a May 26, 1996, memo to tribal clients informing them of the fund-raiser and soliciting contributions, Kitto wrote:

I know everyone has been inundated with political fundraising requests this spring. However, Martin was relentless in leading the charge to stop the Hudson Dog Track Deal. It is appropriate that we recognize Martin for his diligence and hard work.

Likewise, in an Aug. 29, 1996, memo to his tribal clients, Kitto expressed support for Congressman Bruce Vento, noting that Vento was "a leading advocate for Minnesota Tribes in stopping the proposed Hudson Dog Track buy-out the previous year."